

Serial No.: 10/056,285
Group Art Unit: 3762
Examiner: P. Bianco
Atty. Docket No.: 22719-25

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please add the attached new drawing sheet showing new Figure 5.

REMARKS

The outstanding Office Action addresses claims 1-23.

At the outset, Applicant thanks Examiner Bianco for extending the courtesy of a personal interview with Applicant's attorney on January 27, 2005. During the interview, an agreement was reached that the claims, as amended herein, distinguish over the art of record.

Amendments

Applicant adds new Figure 5 and amend the specification to refer to new Figure 5. No new matter is added.

Applicant amends claim 1 to clarify that the pressure sensor communicates with the biasing element to cause the biasing element to exert a biasing force against a first surface of the blocking element. Support for this amendment can be found throughout the specification and in the drawings. No new matter is added.

Objections to the Drawings

The Examiner objects to the drawings pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a), arguing that the drawings do not show every feature of the invention. Specifically, the Examiner requires drawings illustrating the flexible bellows, programmable spring mechanism, leaf spring, coil spring, and helical spring, as recited in claims 11-14.

At the outset, as discussed in the interview, a flexible bellows is shown in FIG. 2. Per the Examiner's request, Applicant has added new Figure 5 which illustrates a spring that could be programmable spring mechanism, leaf spring, coil spring, or a helical spring. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this requirement is therefore respectfully requested.

Rejections Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-3 and 11-16 are rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,437,627 of Lecuyer in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,787,886 of Cosman and further in view

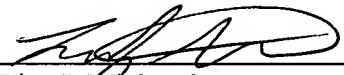
of U.S. Patent No. 4,413,985 of Wellner et al. As noted above, the Examiner has agreed that the claims as amended distinguish over the art of record, thereby obviating the basis for this rejection.

Conclusion

In view of the remarks above, Applicant submits that all claims are now in condition for allowance, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested. Applicant encourages the Examiner to telephone the undersigned in the event that such communication might expedite prosecution of this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

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